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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Cosby show will go on

Three Ontario cities will see comedian perform despite assault allegations PAGE 5

Friends you can count on

As the classic sitcom hits Netflix, Metro picks the best episode of each season PAGE 15

Guilt-free shawarma

The fast-food favourite can be made at home to cut down the calories PAGE 17

JUNIORS JUST ONE WIN AWAY

TEAM CANADA WILL FACE RUSSIA IN THE GOLD-MEDAL FINAL AFTER BEATING SLOVAKIA 5-1 PAGE 22

Wilson mansion still tops in B.C.

2015 assessments. Lululemon founder's Vancouver home the most expensive in province for second straight year

MATT KIELTYKA
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Chip Wilson's mansion on Point Grey Road is worth $57,595,000, according to B.C. Assessment. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

The house that Lycra built is worth its weight in gold.

According to B.C. Assessment's 2015 roll, released Friday, Lululemon founder Chip Wilson's Kitsilano home is the most valued residential property in British Columbia.

The mansion on Point Grey Road was assessed at $57,595,000.

Wilson's waterfront abode is the most valuable B.C. residence for the second year in a row.

In 2014 it was assessed at $54.2 million, up from $35.2 million in 2013 when it was still under construction.

Two other properties cracked the $50-million mark this year: acreage on James Island in the gulf islands ($51,521,000) and a single-family home on Belmont Avenue in Vancouver's Point Grey neighbourhood ($50,126,000).

Sixteen of the Top 25 valued properties in the province are located within City of Vancouver limits, four others are in the District of West Vancouver and three are on UBC's University Endowment Lands.

Overall, the Vancouver Sea to Sky region's assessment roll increased to $407.1 billion this year, from $375.1 billion.

"Most homes in the Vancouver Sea to Sky region are worth more in value compared to last year's assessment roll," said B.C. Assessment deputy assessor Dharmesh Sisodrak in a statement. "Most home owners … will see changes up to plus-15 per cent."

The Fraser Valley's assessment roll also increased to $94.3 billion, from $90.7 in 2013.

Most owners in the valley will see assessment changes within plus- or minus-five per cent, the office said.

The total value of real estate throughout the province in 2015 is assessed at more than $1.2 trillion, up 5.84 per cent from 2014.

Owners of more than 323,000 properties in the Vancouver Sea to Sky region and 193,000 properties in the Fraser Valley will be receiving their assessment notices shortly.

Any owners who feel their assessment doesn't reflect the market value of their property as of July 1, 2014, or see incorrect information are asked to contact B.C. Assessment this month.

The assessments can also be appealed and reviewed by a panel.

Follow Matt Kieltyka on Twitter @Mkieltyka

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The Bradian ghost town near Lillooet, B.C., sold for nearly $1 million to a group of Chinese investors. COURTESY JOHN LOVELACE REAL ESTATE TEAM

From ghost town to resort

The next Whistler?
Chinese investors buy former gold-mining town of Bradian after article about hunt for buyer went viral

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

An old gold-mining ghost town north of Whistler has sold for just under $1 million to a group of Chinese investors with a plan to restore life to the mountain post.

The entire townsite of Bradian, including its 22 homes, streets and fire hydrants, was officially sold last week to the China Zhong Ya Group Hebei Canada-China Co.

The buyers' ultimate goal is to turn the ghost town — about a four-hour drive from Vancouver, depending on the season — into a recreation hub where visitors can even pan for gold, project manager Mike Mills said.

"They have the notion that one day it'll look like Whistler," Mills said. "They're enthusiastic to make a showplace here."

Bradian is expected to lure visitors due to its proximity to beautiful lakes and locations ideal for fishing, swimming, whitewater rafting, climbing and snowmobiling, Mills said.

But first the investors will have to dig deep into their pockets. It will take "many millions" to upgrade the town's infrastructure to today's standards. Bradian was built in the 1930s.

The buyers intend to follow the development layout for the town agreed upon with Lillooet in 1978, Mills said.

"They want to do it right," he said. "They understand there's a lot of history."

Big plans

"(The buyers) have the notion that one day it'll look like Whistler.... They're enthusiastic to make a showplace here."
Project manager Mike Mills

The ghost town languished on the real-estate market for a few years until an article about its hunt for a buyer went viral in August. After that, more than 20 domestic and overseas parties expressed interest in the property, realtor John Lovelace said.

The purchase adds to a changing trend in buyers from Asia, Lovelace said. While overseas investors were initially interested in buying houses and condos, Lovelace has seen a growing interest in recreational property such as farms and ranches.

Burnaby. Suspected impaired driver in collision found with child in backseat

Police are investigating a man for alleged impaired driving after he was found slumped over the wheel of a vehicle while a four-year-old child sat in the backseat.

Burnaby RCMP confirmed the man was arrested Friday afternoon after a series of events led Mounties to the vehicle in Coquitlam.

The driver was first seen hitting a concrete divider at Lougheed Highway and Production Way and then leaving the scene.

According to Staff Sgt. Daron Brown, a witness called 911 to report the crash and followed the driver.

When police caught up with the suspect, the car was stopped on Como Lake Road, near Mariner Way, in Coquitlam.

The driver was slumped over the wheel and had suffered minor scratches to his face, Brown said.

Police also discovered that a four-year-old child was in the back of the vehicle.

The child was uninjured and was quickly reunited with its mother.

Police investigating

Brown could not confirm what relationship the child and driver may have had.

RCMP are considering charges of impaired driving against the man.

The investigation continues.
MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Surrey. RCMP cruisers rammed by stolen vehicle

Mounties in Surrey say three police cruisers were rammed by a stolen vehicle, but nobody was hurt and a suspect is in custody.

The incident took place just before noon Sunday in an area between the town centres of Newton and Whalley.

RCMP Staff Sgt. Murray Hedderson says police were looking for the vehicle because its occupants had been observed breaking into parked automobiles in another area of the city.

He says officers found it, but as more members arrived in the area, the stolen vehicle drove off, ramming three police cars and severely damaging two of them.

Hedderson says that while the passenger fled the vehicle before it stopped, the 23-year-old driver was arrested at the scene and will appear in court on Monday.

Police are looking for those who may have had property stolen from their vehicles as well as witnesses of the collision. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Library fire. Police investigate arson at Capilano University

North Vancouver RCMP are investigating an arson and possible theft at Capilano University on Friday.

Police say that a suspicious fire originated at the school's library, but was quickly contained by the emergency sprinkler system.

While the library suffered fire, smoke and water damage, no other part of the school was affected.

The RCMP detachment's arson unit is investigating the blaze, which they say was deliberately set, and also examining signs of a possible break-in.

Investigators noticed that a safe in the library had been pulled from the wall and pried open, but it's not clear whether any property was missing or stolen.

Video surveillance is being used to help identify any potential suspects, but RCMP are also asking people who may have seen anything suspicious in the area at approximately 12:30 a.m. to contact investigators.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Mt. Horne. Rescuers find missing jogger near peak

Military crew members aboard a Cormorant helicopter used their night-vision goggles to locate a jogger lost near the top of a Vancouver Island mountain.

Maj. Mary Lee of 442 Transport and Rescue Squadron says the crew responded to a call of a missing jogger Saturday night on Mt. Horne, which is west of Qualicum Beach, B.C.

She says ground search-and-rescue volunteers contacted the jogger by cellphone, and when the helicopter arrived just after midnight, crew members found her on a logging road.

Lee says search-and-rescue technicians descended about 45 metres by hoist and rescued the jogger, who was cold but did not require medical attention.

The jogger was flown to a local airport where she was met by police and reunited with her family.

Cormorant pilot Capt. Pete Wright says the co-ordination between the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre, RCMP and local search-and-rescue volunteers was behind the first successful mission of 2015.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Snow, freezing rain

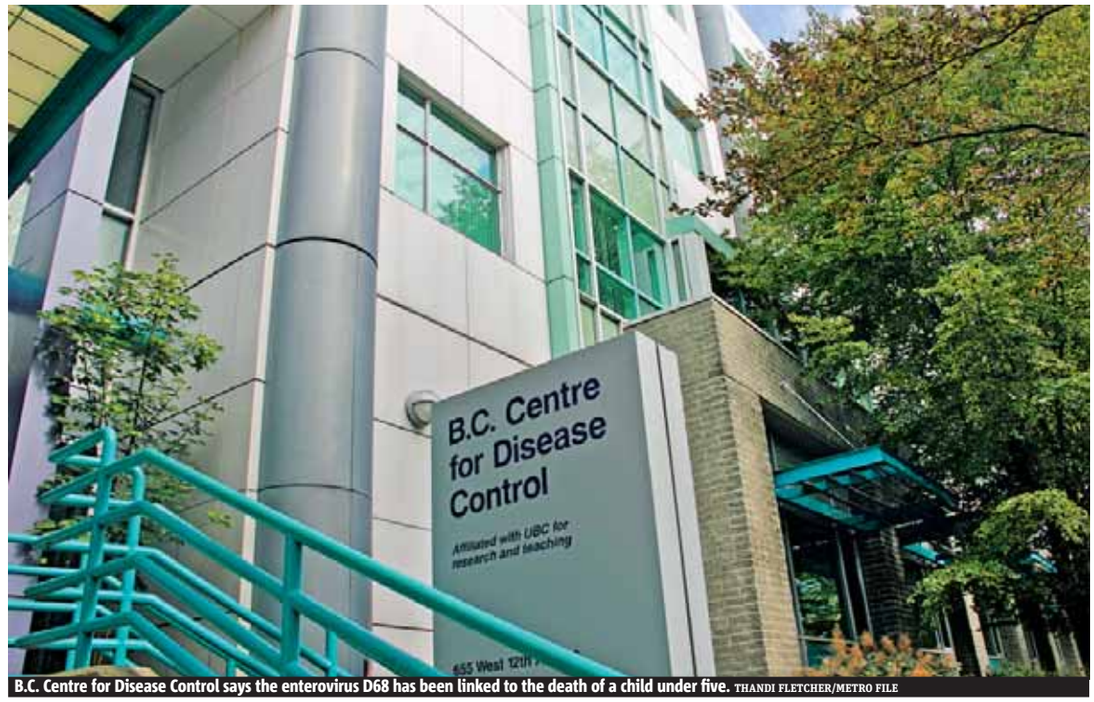
Pacific storm hits province

Snow and freezing rain dumped on B.C. by a passing Pacific storm are causing problems for some motorists.

Environment Canada has issued 24 winter-storm warnings and one snowfall warning for areas between inland Vancouver Island in the west, Kootenay Lake in the east, the Cariboo in central B.C. and the North Coast.

The storm has brought wet snow to higher elevations in Metro Vancouver, as well as the Fraser Valley, and is expected to dump more than 50 millimetres of rain on the region through Monday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



B.C. Centre for Disease Control says the enterovirus D68 has been linked to the death of a child under five. THANDI FLETCHER/METRO FILE

Enterovirus D68 linked to death of young child

Under the age of five. Third fatality in province related to the respiratory virus

The death of a B.C. child has become the third fatality in the province linked to the enterovirus D68 infection.

Dr. Danuta Skowronski, an infectious disease specialist with the B.C. Centre for Disease Control, said Saturday the child was less than five years old at time of death in November and the agency was notified last week. The deaths of an elderly person and young adult have also been associated with the respiratory virus, and Skowronski said the patients had multiple underlying medical conditions or asthma.

Because of privacy issues, Skowronski said she couldn't reveal the child's gender or age.

"Like the other two, we can't say with certainty whether that infection was causally related with the death or in what way it may have contributed, so right now we're describing it as a death in association with enterovirus D68 confirmation," she said.

Most of those infected with enterovirus D68 have what appear to be symptoms of a common cold: sneezing, runny nose, a cough, and some have no symptoms at all, she said.

The risk to the general population is low, she added, noting that only a small proportion of people who suffer from underlying medical conditions experience more severe problems.

The B.C. agency and the Public Health Agency of Canada began collaborating on a virus-surveillance program in September.

In a report published online Friday, the B.C. agency noted it had detected 220 cases of the virus in the province since mid-August, and of those, 140 required hospitalization. It also reported five cases of neurological illness associated with the virus.

Skowronski said about 70 per cent of those hospitalized were children under the age of 15, and upper body muscle weakness was reported in the five neurological cases.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Vancouver council unites to push 'yes' vote for transit tax

Public transportation. Tax increase of 0.5 per cent would add $250M over 10 years to Metro Vancouver public transit expansion

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

Passengers wait to board the 99 B-Line along the Broadway corridor. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

Vancouver city councillors will kick off the new year on a united front to push for a "yes" vote in the spring transit plebiscite.

After a tense election battle, councillors from the two dominant civic parties, Vision Vancouver and the Non-Partisan Association, seem prepared to put their differences aside to advocate the 0.5 per cent regional increase to the provincial sales tax to pay for transportation improvements across Metro Vancouver.

NPA Coun. George Affleck will table a motion at the first council meeting asking staff to report back urgently with a strategy for city hall to support the success of the plebiscite, which will take place via mail-in ballots between March and May.

While Affleck often presents himself as the most tax-averse councillor, he said he supports it because it's transparent and will go toward projects that will make the region more prosperous.

The tax is expected to contribute about $250 million annually to the mayors' council's $7.5-billion 10-year plan to pay for infrastructure across the region, including the Broadway subway to Arbutus in Vancouver, two LRT lines in Surrey, massive bus service increases and a new Pattullo Bridge.

"I would remind people this is not about transit only; it's about bridges, the SeaBus," Affleck said.

Vision, which won a majority in the election after campaigning heavily on plans to advocate the Broadway subway, welcomes the NPA motion, Coun. Geoff Meggs said.

"It's important for the public to realize that all the parties at council are unanimous in their view that the mayors' council plan is a good one," Meggs said. "I think it's excellent that we're going to be speaking with one voice on this."

If the referendum is successful, the mayors will still need to lobby the federal government for its share of the capital funding.

Council will consider the motion on Jan. 20.

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Bill Cosby's Ontario shows set to go ahead despite controversy

Sex-abuse allegations. Comedian is scheduled to perform in Kitchener, London and Hamilton on Jan. 7, 8 and 9

Maureen Dragasevich still has fond memories of gathering with her family to listen to Bill Cosby's jokes as a kid. When she heard the comedian would be performing in Ontario, she and her siblings bought tickets as a birthday present for their father, all in an attempt to relive what was once a family tradition.

But after a flood of sexual-abuse allegations against Cosby in recent weeks, Dragasevich and her family have decided not to attend the performance, joining a growing number of people who are speaking out against his three scheduled appearances in Canada.

"Given the fact that he's played Mr. Jell-O Pudding and Dr. Huxtable, I think we kind of find it harder to believe," said the 59-year-old Aurora, Ont., resident.

"But we hold him accountable for his behaviour, and his behaviour is disgusting."

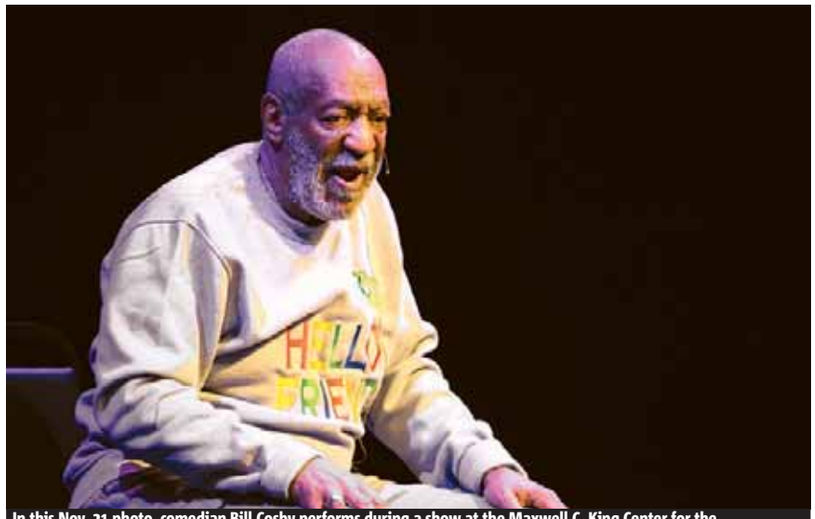
Cosby, who is in the midst of a stand-up concert tour, has had to deal with the cancellation or postponement of at least 10 of his shows as the scandal continues to swirl, but his appearances in three Ontario cities seem set to go ahead despite local opposition.

Cosby is set to perform in Kitchener on Jan. 7, London on Jan. 8 and Hamilton on Jan. 9.

The Ontario venues hosting Cosby have said his shows are being handled entirely by an external agent, which has indicated the events are still going ahead. The Ontario venues have also emphasized their contractual obligations to allow the shows to continue.

One venue — Kitchener's Centre In The Square, where the first show is set to take place — addressed residents' anger directly.

"While we may personally share concerns raised by the community, if The Centre forces a cancellation of this rental show it isn't simply a situation of giving back the rent," it said in a blog post, noting that it would also need to pay any "guarantee fee" to Cosby, compensate the promoter for box-office losses and show expenses and refund patrons.



In this Nov. 21 photo, comedian Bill Cosby performs during a show at the Maxwell C. King Center for the Performing Arts in Melbourne, Fla. PHELAN M. EBENHACK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

After noting the venue's stance, a handful of Kitchener residents came up with a way to demonstrate their opposition by holding an alternative event, which will run at the same time as Cosby's show, with proceeds going to two women's crisis-support centres in the region.

"Too often we fail survivors of sexual assault; we shame them, we blame them, we doubt their experiences, and so it's in moments like this that we have an opportunity to stand in support of survivors in our community," said Sara Casselman, a spokeswoman for the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region, which will be benefiting from the event.

The event — called Voices Carry — was triggered by a local broadcaster musing on Twitter about whether an alternative fundraiser could be pulled together. Those who have purchased tickets to Cosby's show can gain free admission.

Cosby's representatives did not respond to a request for comment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Allegations of abuse

Cosby's image has been pummelled in recent weeks by a flurry of allegations that he drugged women and sexually assaulted them, with some accusations dating back to the 1970s.

- He has never been criminally charged in connection with the accusations, and his lawyer has denied many of them. Cosby also settled a lawsuit in 2005 with a Pennsylvania woman who said he drugged and fondled her.

Dalhousie profs file complaint against dentistry students

A Dalhousie University faculty member, who has filed a complaint with three other professors over male students who allegedly posted sexually hateful messages online about women, says she was acting on behalf of other students who feel more needs to be done.

Francoise Baylis of the university's medical school said Sunday that the professors filed a formal complaint under the students' code of conduct to Anne Forrestall, the school's acting vice-provost of student affairs, on Dec. 21 and hand-delivered a print copy the following day.

She said the complaint asks that the dentistry students involved in the Facebook group where misogynistic comments were allegedly posted be suspended on an interim basis prior to the return of classes on Monday.

Baylis said the professors have heard from students who are not satisfied with the current informal restorative-justice process.

"We are deeply committed to creating a situation whereby no individual student would have to put themselves at risk if they wanted to bring forward a complaint," she said in a phone interview on Sunday.

The three other professors who signed the complaint are Jocelyn Downie of Law and Medicine, Brian Noble of the faculty of Arts and Sciences and Jacqueline Warwick of the faculty of Arts and Sciences, Gender and Women's Studies.

Baylis said the effects of the hateful messages extend beyond those directly involved in the school of dentistry.

She said the professors are concerned because the complaint has not been addressed by administration. She said the group initially wanted to keep their names confidential but decided to go public because of the delays in processing the complaint. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Mont Ste. Marie, Que.

Skiers rescued after being stranded on broken chairlift

Dozens of skiers and snowboarders had to be rescued after being trapped on a broken chairlift at a ski resort near Ottawa on Saturday.

Bob Sudermann, co-owner of the Mont Ste. Marie resort in Lac-Sainte-Marie, Que., says the chairlift had mechanical issues and was shut down around noon.

Sudermann says all 80 riders were rescued from the lift shortly before 4 p.m. by resort staff and members of the Canadian Ski Patrol.

With cold temperatures in the forecast, management was concerned about the health of the stranded riders and worked quickly to get them back on the ground.

It was -12 C on Mount St. Mary's on Saturda, but it felt like -21 C. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Barrie, Ont.

Rental car seized in drug bust after collision

A central Ontario man is going to have a tough time explaining this one to the car rental agency.

Police say the 36-year-old Barrie, Ont., man was involved in a minor collision on Saturday. Barrie police say that when officers arrived it's alleged they found crack cocaine and a pipe.

The driver was charged with possession of a narcotic and impaired driving. Police say the vehicle he was driving was confiscated and will be held for 45 days. Investigators say the accused man's girlfriend became upset over his arrest and allegedly opened the police cruiser door in an attempt to free her boyfriend.

The 31-year-old woman is facing a charge of obstructing police. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Edmonton Polar Plunge draws record numbers

An extreme cold alert with temperatures in the -20 C range didn't stop Edmonton police officers Katlyn Prins, left, and Tania Ferguson, right, from taking a Polar Plunge for the Special Olympics on Sunday in Edmonton. The annual event drew the largest number of participants in its history and raised $15,000 for athletes. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO IN EDMONTON

Costs rise for nation's 150th

$12 million. The figure is based solely on ad and promotion costs, and is $5 million more than the government said it would spend

Talk about an expensive birthday party invitation: Recently-released federal spending figures show advertising promoting Canada's 150th birthday — two years from now — has cost nearly $12 million so far.

That's $5 million more than the government had said last fall it was spending on Canada 150 advertising, because it's now including other programs as part of the party.

An estimated $6.5 million is being spent producing and running ads about the Charlottetown and Quebec conferences currently running on social media and mainstream media channels clearly tagged as being connected to the anniversary.

But the Conservatives are also bundling their campaign, marking the bicentennial of the War of 1812 under the Canada 150 banner, adding the $5.2 million already spent on that to the cost of advertising upcoming national birthday celebrations.

The War of 1812 ad campaign was the first of a series along the road to 2017, said Marisa Monnin, a spokeswoman for Heritage Minister Shelley Glover.

"Through these advertising campaigns, the government of Canada will encourage Canadians to learn more about their history, commemorate events, celebrate accomplishments and honour people that helped shape what Canada is today," she said in an email.

Liberal heritage critic Stephane Dion said the ad buy seems like a case of the government seeking to burnish its image. While they're running ads, they've yet to unveil any actual events to mark the milestone, he said.

Monnin says the plans are in the works, but didn't disclose details.

The Conservatives have long been attacked for using government ads in a partisan manner; one sore spot was the $2.5 million spent advertising an apprenticeship program before the program was even official. THE CANADIAN PRESS

7-year-old crash survivor helps investigation

'One remarkable young lady.' Sailor Gutzler treated at Kentucky hospital and released to relative

Sailor Gutzler, a seven-year-old girl who survived a plane crash in western Kentucky, walked a mile through the cold, dark woods to safety and then helped authorities locate the wreckage and remains of her family, may not be done helping investigators.

National Transportation Safety Board investigator Heidi Moats said Sunday that Sailor is "one remarkable young lady," and she might able to assist them with determining what brought the plane down. It is rare for someone to survive a small plane crash and Moats said they want to talk to Sailor about it.

It's not clear when investigators might talk to Sailor, who despite being bloodied and suffering a broken wrist, pulled herself from the wreckage and walked to the nearest home.

She was dressed for Florida, where her family had been visiting, and was wearing shorts, a short-sleeve shirt and only one sock when she found a home about a mile from the crash site. Authorities said she walked through thick woods and briar patches in near-freezing temperatures.

The remains of the Piper PA-34 plane were moved Sunday to a location so officials with the NTSB can inspect it.

They haven't discussed any possibilities of what brought the plane down or how Sailor survived the Friday crash.

The agency will issue a preliminary report in about 10 days, Moats said at a news conference in Eddyville, Ky.

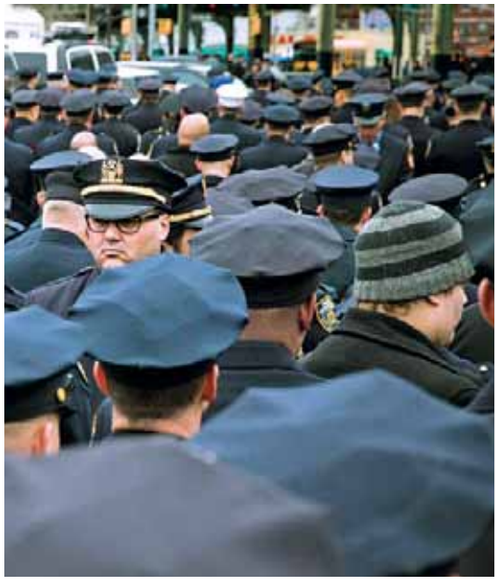
Sailor was treated at a hospital and released to a relative Saturday.

Sailor walked to the home of 71-year-old Larry Wilkins, who answered her knock at the door and called police. Wilkins said the girl was crying and covered in blood.

"She told me that her mom and dad were dead, and she had been in a plane crash, and the plane was upside down," Wilkins said.

Sailor was alert and able to point emergency workers looking for the plane in the right direction, Lyon County Judge executive Wade White, who arrived at the crash site.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



NYPD officers turn backs during mayor's eulogy at officer's funeral

A lone police officer stands front as other colleagues turn their backs while Mayor Bill de Blasio speaks during the funeral of New York Police Department Officer Wenjian Liu at Aievoli Funeral Home, Sunday, in the Brooklyn borough of New York. Liu and his partner, officer Rafael Ramos, were killed Dec. 20 as they sat in their patrol car on a Brooklyn street. The shooter, Ismaaiyl Brinsley, later killed himself. The show of disrespect toward Mayor de Blasio came outside the funeral home, and added to tensions between the mayor and rank-and-file police even as he sought to quiet them.

JOHN MINCHILLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bad weather

Divers wait to look for wreckage

Around 100 family members of AirAsia Flight 8501 crash victims sought strength Sunday, one week after the disaster, while bad weather again prevented searchers from reaching a large object on the ocean floor that is believed to be the fuselage. Emotionally exhausted relatives sang and cried at a tiny chapel in Surabaya, the city where the plane departed from last Sunday with 162 crew members and passengers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Underage sex claims

Buckingham Palace defends Prince Andrew

Buckingham Palace on Sunday stepped up efforts to defend Prince Andrew after the British royal was embroiled in claims of sexual impropriety with an underage woman. In a second statement since the claims surfaced, officials "emphatically denied" allegations by an unidentified woman who said she was forced to have sex with the royal when she was under the age of 18.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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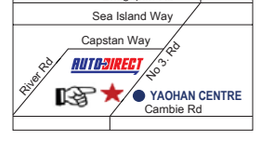

Pope scours world for new cardinals

Fifteen named. New 'princes of the church' hail from unconventional areas seeing big growth

Pope Francis named 15 new cardinals Sunday, selecting them from 14 nations, including far-flung corners of the world such as Tonga, New Zealand, Cape Verde and Myanmar to reflect the diversity of the church and its growth in places such as Asia and Africa.

Other cardinals hail from Ethiopia, Thailand and Vietnam. None came from the United States, and only three European nations received new cardinals.

Francis told the faithful in St. Peter's Square that the new batch of cardinals "shows the inseparable tie with the church of Rome to churches in the world."

With his picks, the Argentine-born Francis made it ever-clearer that he is laying out a new vision of the church's identity, including its hierarchy. He looked beyond traditional metropolitan areas for the "princes of the church" who will help advise him and eventually elect his successor.

Pope Francis THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

He has said repeatedly that the church must reach out to those on the margins.

The Vatican's chief spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said the selection "confirms that the pope doesn't feel tied to the traditional 'cardinal sees,' which reflected historic reasons in various countries."

The pontiff ignored another tradition: limiting to 120 the number of cardinals under 80 and eligible to vote for his successor.

Counting the new cardinals, 125 cardinals will be eligible to vote, although Lombardi noted "he kept very close to it (120), so it was substantially respected."

Francis also made another surprise announcement. He said that on Feb. 12 and 13, he will lead a meeting of all cardinals to "reflect on the orientations and proposals for the reform of the Roman Curia," the Vatican's administrative bureaucracy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crew members rescued from grounded ship

A small boat sails past the Hoegh Osaka car-transporter cargo ship that ran aground on Sunday in the Solent, off the Isle of Wight. The crew members of the Hoegh Osaka were rescued by a coast guard helicopter and lifeboats after the ship became stranded on Bramble Bank. FRANCIS BIGG PHOTOGRAPHY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

War crimes cases

Palestinian bid to join ICC vexes Israel

Israeli leaders on Sunday threatened to take tougher action against the Palestinians over their decision to join the International Criminal Court.

The Palestinians have said they plan to use their new membership to press war crimes cases against Israel.

"The Palestinian Authority has chosen confrontation with Israel, and we will not sit idly by," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told his cabinet.

In an initial response over the weekend, Israel said it had frozen more than $100 million in tax funds collected for the Palestinians. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Police end search for three missing climbers

No sign. After six days, New Zealand authorities stop looking for men who tried to reach mountain summit

Authorities on Sunday abandoned their search for one Australian and two German climbers who disappeared on New Zealand's tallest mountain six days earlier.

Aerial searches turned up no sign of the men.

Police Senior Constable Brent Swanson said the families of the men are upset the search has stopped, but are aware of why the decision was made.

Swanson said the men were last seen at 4 a.m. Monday by a returning guide as they attempted to reach the summit of Mount Cook, which is also known by its indigenous Maori name, Aoraki.

He said the men were roped together when they set off from a hut for their climb at about 1:30 a.m. They were due back at a hut that evening but never showed up.

Swanson said he believes Johann Viellehner, 58, from Germany, and his son Raphael Viellehner, 27, had teamed up for the climb with Michael Bishop, 53, a Sydney doctor.

He said the weather on Monday was clear and well-suited for climbing but there are plenty of hazards on the mountain, including avalanches, rock falls and crevasses.

He said the men seemed to be well-equipped although didn't appear to be carrying emergency locator beacons. He said cellphone reception is poor on much of the mountain.

Police said they would re-evaluate their search plans if they got any new information or sightings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Islamic prophet's birth marked by rally, meals for the poor

Pakistanis participate in a rally marking the birthday of Islam's Prophet Muhammad, in Karachi, Pakistan on Sunday. Thousands of Pakistani Muslims celebrated by participating in religious ceremonies and distributing free meals among the poor. FAREED KHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

France to probe refusal of Roma infant's burial

The French official charged with ensuring rights said on Sunday he will investigate the alleged refusal of a mayor to allow an infant Roma to be buried in his community — despite the mayor's denial.

Jacques Toubon, the state's defender of rights, said on Europe 1 radio that as of Monday he would seek information from all parties.

The infant girl, reportedly born in October, is to be buried Monday morning in Wissous, neighbouring the town of Champlan, just south of Paris, where her parents live in a camp with other Roma, also known as Gypsies. The baby died a day after Christmas of sudden infant death syndrome after being rushed to a hospital.

Champlan Mayor Christian Leclerc denied earlier Sunday that he ever refused a burial site for the child in the local cemetery.

"I would like this masquerade … to stop immediately," Leclerc said on BFM-TV.

Reports of his refusal to give the infant a resting place have caused outrage.

The presence of some 20,000 Roma in France, most living in makeshift camps in deplorable conditions, is a sensitive topic in France and a hot political issue. Roma, from eastern Europe, are European citizens.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls said on Twitter that a refusal to bury the infant is "an injury to what France is."

Leclerc was quoted Wednesday in the daily Le Parisien as saying priority for the few available grave sites goes to those paying taxes.

He now says there was confusion among town employees about his instructions before he went on vacation, "an error of understanding in the chain of decisions." He said on the iTele TV station that "my thoughts are with the family."

Mayor Richard Trinquier of nearby Wissous offered a gravesite.

Toubon said he was personally "stupefied" by the reported burial refusal, but said it was unclear whether, if true, there was an infraction of the law.

The deceased have a right to be buried where they die, in the family grave or where they live, but whether a camp counts as a domicile is unclear. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Car recalls hit new high in Canada

Safety concerns. More than eight million vehicles affected in 2014 for issues ranging from ignition switch woes to unsafe airbags

Canadian auto recalls hit an all-time high last year, with more than eight million vehicles affected as several high-profile problems with faulty airbags and ignition switches brought safety issues to the forefront.

Automakers issued nearly 600 recall notices on Canadian vehicles in 2014, according to data from Transport Canada.

The previous record for the highest number was set in 2010, when automakers issued 468 recall notices affecting 1.5 million products, including vehicles, car seats and tires.

But the total number of vehicles affected was higher in 2013, when manufacturers recalled two million products, despite the total recall notices being lower at 466, according to a Canadian Press analysis.

Industry observers say automakers are issuing recalls en masse in an attempt to prevent future problems, after defective ignition switches led to numerous crashes, at least 58 injuries and 42 deaths.

GM recalled 2.6 million vehicles worldwide due to the problem, including roughly 368,000 in Canada, but faced criticism for waiting 11 years to do so. The company is now facing several lawsuits.

"GM was in a pickle and nobody else wanted to be the new GM," said George Iny, president of the Automobile Protection Association.

"So they started to do some housecleaning. And people with skeletons in the closet and bodies in the basement have been pulling them out."

Among last year's high-profile recalls were 700,000 Honda Canada vehicles, over potentially exploding airbags produced by Japanese parts maker Takata Corp.

At least five people have died in accidents involving the airbags, which can explode with too much force. Four of the people who died were in the United States and one was in Malaysia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Detroit workers build an unusual home

An unconventional home takes shape inside General Motors' Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly plant in Detroit, intended to be part of a movement to rebuild the city's economy and deteriorating, disappearing housing stock. Skilled-trades workers from the Chevrolet Volt factory are doing all the framing, electrical and plumbing work. The 40-foot-long former container will feature 320 square feet of living space, with two bedrooms, a bathroom and a kitchen, and will serve as home base for university-student caretakers of a neighbourhood farm and agricultural research activities. CARLOS OSORIO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Facebook. CEO to read a new book every 2nd week

Mark Zuckerberg announced on his Facebook page recently that he will read a book every other week in 2015, with an emphasis on learning about different beliefs and cultures.

The Facebook founder and CEO urged his friends to join him in the project. As of Sunday, his "Year in Book" page had more than 89,000 likes. The first book in his program, Moises Naim's "The End of Power," was out of stock Sunday on Amazon.com and had a sales ranking of No. 203.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Non-compete clauses common

Non-competition agreements are better known in contracts for senior executives who have business secrets of interest to competitors. However, court records show the restrictions have also snared maids in Chicago, a nail stylist in Texas, cable TV installers in Michigan and agricultural workers in Washington.

The agreements for low-wage workers might trap them in their current jobs, allowing their employers to pay them lower salaries, experts said.

Employers might seek non-competition agreements because they fear losing money training a worker who quits or who could disclose secrets.

"You certainly wouldn't want anyone to know in the competitive landscape what's around the corner," Home Depot spokesman Stephen Holmes said.

Researchers say there's evidence non-competes limit pay for executives, and the same trend could hold for the rank-and-file.

"The idea that they're only for high-skilled workers is only wishful thinking," said Evan Starr, a labour economist at the University of Illinois. He's started analyzing results from a survey asking more than 11,500 people across the workforce about non-competition agreements. "Workers just sign them — they don't even think twice about it."

A house-cleaning service in Chicago, Super Maid LLC, required its maids to sign non-competes, according to a U.S. Department of Labor complaint. The government said the maids scrubbed floors on their hands and knees, got chided for eating lunch and received less than minimum wage.

In a court filing, maid Mariana Bahena said, "... If I worked for any Super Maid customers, I would get sued, which made me afraid." The deal also banned maids from working for other cleaning services. Owner Paul Krawczyk said he never enforced it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Traders hopeful that U.S. rebound will lead to a strong 2015

A trader wears 2015-shaped glasses on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange in New York on Dec. 31, 2014, the last trading day of the year. SETH WENIG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Despite some end-of-year declines, investors appear eager to build on the overall gains of 2014 as markets begin their first full week of trading in the new year.

"Traders will probably be shaking off the doom and gloom of the last couple of weeks and starting the year fresh and with a better perspective," says Paul Vaillancourt, executive vice-president of private wealth at Calgary-based Fiera Capital.

On the Toronto Stock Exchange, the mood improved early as the TSX rebounded to a triple-digit gain on Friday after closing out 2014 with a small decline on Wednesday.

The TSX ended 2014 in positive territory, up seven per cent overall, although down from its highs of the year and an almost 10 per cent advance in 2013.

On Friday, the S&P/TSX composite index finished the first trading day of the year up 121.21 points at 14,753.65.

Vaillancourt said that a lot of what will be driving equity markets in 2015 is an anticipated strong performance from the U.S. economy, which seems on track with its recovery.

This will likely lead to a similarly positive showing in the Canadian economy and may be enough to offset the plunge in crude prices, should it continue.

"The U.S. economy is going to continue its strong leadership and our view is that Canada will benefit on the export side ... manufacturing and so on," he said.

Markets advanced last year even as the U.S. Federal Reserve wrapped up its massive program of buying bonds — a program that has helped keep interest rates low and been a huge aid in the recovery of stock markets since the 2008 financial collapse.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NYSE

The New York markets finished strongly to close out 2014.

- The Dow ended the year up 7.5 per cent from 2013, while Nasdaq ended 2014 with a 13.4 per cent year-to-year increase from its 2013 numbers.

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'No change of course'

Germans oppose Greece losing euro

A spokesman for Chancellor Angela Merkel says Germany hasn't shifted its view on Greece dropping the euro.

In a report Saturday, German weekly Der Spiegel cited unnamed government officials indicating Merkel and her finance minister no longer believe it would be risky for the 19-member bloc if Greece dropped the euro. But government spokesman Georg Streiter refuted the report, stating "there is no change of course" and Greece must fulfill its EU obligations.

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VOICES

WATCH YOUR WASTE

Metro Vancouver bans food waste in garbage, but do the city's small businesses know?

CITY HOLLER
Trish Kelly

This new year, Lower Mainlanders made a region-wide resolution to stop sending food waste to landfill. The resolution comes via Metro Vancouver in the form of a new regulation restricting food waste, known as organics, in your garbage.

If you own or work in a small business, you will want to take special note, as this might be the first time the ban is hitting your radar. Metro Vancouver has been trying to get your attention since 2011 when outreach and industry awareness campaigns began, but more resources have been aimed at larger businesses. Enforcement will begin this July, when fines will be levied on any load delivered to transfer stations with more than 25 per cent organics. You have six months to figure out what you'll do with your food waste. The Metro Vancouver website includes toolkits and videos in six languages to help.

The ban doesn't just touch small businesses. If you're producing waste, you're affected. If you're lucky enough to live in a single-family home and you've got a green bin, you're fine. If you live in a residential tower, your building manager may be in your garbage room at this moment playing Tetris with recycling bins and dumpsters to squeeze in a tote for organics. Large food-waste generators like grocery stores and big restaurants have already heard from Metro Vancouver or from their waste hauler, and if they don't have a composting plan, they will be receiving firm but friendly notifications and details about what to do next to comply.

Business owners, especially smaller restaurants, may grumble about this, but we don't have any choice, and it really is the right thing to do.

By diverting organic material from landfill, we'll give our table scraps a chance to make it back into the soil. We'll also prevent methane- and greenhouse-gas emissions; that used to be our provincial government's concern, but like most important issues, it now rests with municipalities and individuals. From a cost perspective, Metro Vancouver has spent the last few years upping fees at transfer stations, so sending a truckload of mixed garbage to a waste facility is actually more expensive than sending it to an organics-processing facility. This means businesses can view composting as a cost-reduction opportunity.

Yes, there will need to be training for staff to ensure the right things go in the right bins, but most employees will already be composting at home and this behaviour is about to become commonplace, so training will surely stick.

Perhaps now we'll all turn our attention to the embarrassing root problem, which is how much food we waste every day.

Trish Kelly is an active citizen, community builder and a good neighbour.

Your Vancouver

Farewell, clear sky

Photo submitted by reader Brandine

A 'bird whisperer' feeds pigeons at a park in East Vancouver recently. The cold, clear weather is over, and heavy rain is expected across the South Coast until Wednesday.
CONTRIBUTED

SEE YOUR SHOT HERE: Send us high-resolution snaps of your city to readers@metronews.ca

Upcoming

Get them to the geek

Imagine a high school grad where everyone is old enough to drink and came wearing their favourite costumes.

On Friday, Geekenders' "Villain Prom" caters to Star Trek fans, video-game addicts and band nerds. The geek prom, introduced three years ago, mimicked the Enchantment Under the Sea dance from Back to the Future.

The prom begins at 6 p.m. at Fanclub on Granville Street and runs to 10:30 p.m.

Info at facebook.com/Geekenders.
METRO

Drop trou, Vancouver

On Sunday, Jan. 11, about 200 people will drop trou and ride across Metro Vancouver as part of the annual No Pants SkyTrain Ride.

The event, organized by Vancouver Improv Anywhere, aims to make people laugh. Riders will wait until the doors close, remove their pants and then act like everything is normal. If asked why they took off their pants, riders will explain that the pants were uncomfortable.

The event starts at 2:30 p.m. on the ground level at the Broadway SkyTrain Station, opposite Shoppers Drug Mart.

Participants are urged to wear something appropriate.

The original No Pants ride was organized by Improv Everywhere in 2002 in New York City. More info at improvanywhere.ca/npr. METRO

metro

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Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Gwyneth Paltrow ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

'Special' Gwyneth is tired of taking care of everybody else

In case anyone was wondering, Gwyneth Paltrow has some more details about her "conscious uncoupling" from husband Chris Martin last year, conveniently contained in a nice, neat Marie Clare feature interview.

The biggest revelation? It turns out we were all just expecting too much from Paltrow, who really just needed some Me Time.

"I had built my life on trying to be all things to all people, and I just couldn't do it anymore," Paltrow tells the magazine.

"I really had the sense that I wasn't allowed to have needs, and I had to prove my specialness or self-worth by doing all this stuff and taking care of everybody else. And I just sort of hit a wall."

I'd rather not kick off the year psychoanalyzing a mondo-sized case of perceived social martyrdom, so, instead, I'll just say, glad you're feeling better, Ms. Paltrow. You do you.

Former Third Rock alien secretly marries founder of a futuristic robot firm

It turns out that Inception star Joseph Gordon-Levitt is a master at stealth celebrity.

Not only has he had a serious girlfriend for quite some time, but they even went and got married when nobody was looking. Gordon-Levitt and Tasha McCauley were wed in a private ceremony at an L.A. home before Christmas.

Oh, and his now-wife is actually a lot cooler than he is. McCauley is a futurist and the CEO and co-founder of robotics company Fellow Robots. A robotics company!

Joseph Gordon-Levitt

Feminist storm is brewing between Kaley and Leighton

We're kicking off the New Year with a continuing debate on what a feminist is and who wants to be one.

Awesome sauce!

First up, Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting, responding to a Redbook query about whether she considers herself a feminist with, "Is it bad if I say no? I was never that feminist girl demanding equality, but maybe that's because I've never really faced inequality." Perceptive, that.

But former Gossip Girl star Leighton Meester was posed the very same question during a radio interview and replied, "Yeah ... It's something that I think all people should say about themselves."

You hear that, Kaley? All people. You just going to sit there and take that?

Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting

Leighton Meester

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DVD review

Boyhood

Director. Richard Linklater

Stars. Patricia Arquette, Ethan Hawke

Richard Linklater's coming-of-life masterpiece, my pick for the best film of 2014, is narrative drama that unfolds like documentary truth.

In 2002, the Texas writer-director began filming the previously unknown Ellar Coltrane, then seven years old. Linklater kept filming him for the next 12 years as Ellar grew from child to man, navigating the victories and defeats of ordinary life: girls, school, work, drugs, first kisses, shattered dreams.

The saga runs 164 minutes that flash by the way our lives often seem to. Ellar plays Texas lad Mason, who is trying to grow up normally in a family tested by divorce, alcoholism and other life stresses.

Actors Ethan Hawke and Patricia Arquette are Mason's estranged parents, while Linklater's daughter Lorelei plays the lad's precocious older sister. Unlike other films that grapple with the passage of time, these actors add and drop weight, change hairstyles and fashions, and go through different phases of life. They magically transform before our eyes.

At one point in Boyhood, Mason Jr. asks his father if there is really such a thing as magic in the world. No words are necessary. The truth is plain to see up on the big screen, in a movie the likes of which you won't see again anytime soon.

PETER HOWELL

Cats and social media — a purr-fect fit

Kitties cash in. Felines' new-found Internet fame is helping shelters place more of their unwanted cats

Shelters have quickly learned the power of social media when it comes to finding homes for their cats.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cats these days aren't associated with deities the way they were in ancient Egypt, but the Internet has gotten them a little closer.

We adore Nora the piano-playing cat. We chuckle as a comical feline named Maru leaps into cardboard boxes.

We revel in Grumpy Cat's permanently sour expression. And with millions watching videos of other kitties getting tongue baths from horses and playing peekaboo with their owners, cats have become online stars.

For feline fans, it's a sea change. In the affections of North Americans, cats often get short shrift compared with dogs. Some see cats as aloof, poor companions and indifferent to attention that dogs enjoy.

But with cats' celebrity expanding, experts say cyberspace is aiding their plight.

"Social media has put pets front and centre," says Christie Keith, social media consultant for Maddie's Fund, a California-based foundation that works to save pets' lives. Social media, she says, "is revolutionizing how we help animals."

The Internet has created a vast audience of potential adopters. To save pets' lives, animal welfare organizations are reaching out to an audience addicted to cat videos. Shelters use social media to promote everything from adoption campaigns to free vaccinations, spaying and neutering.

Although there are no comprehensive nationwide statistics, recent studies of targeted communities and available data indicate increases in animal shelters releasing cats to owners or rescue agencies that guarantee adoption.

In one of the studies, conducted by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, shelters and rescue organizations in six areas from Florida to Washington state supplied data from 2007 to 2011.

Overall, the rates for dogs and cats released to people or agencies rose from 41 per cent to 65 per cent. Cats showed a whopping 111 per cent boost.

It's difficult to pinpoint how much of this good news stems from the Internet, but many online campaigns have seen successes.

A year ago, just before Christmas, the Dumb Friends League in Denver posted a photo and story on Facebook of an 11-year-old cat that had been in its shelter for nearly eight months. Older cats like Ripley are often overlooked by potential adopters.

For her online appearance, Ripley donned a tiny Santa suit. The posting got hundreds of shares and "likes" and netted her a new home, said Megan Rees, spokeswoman for the organization.

The organization has increased its adoption rate of adult cats by 13 per cent over the past year, with help from its website, Facebook and Twitter.

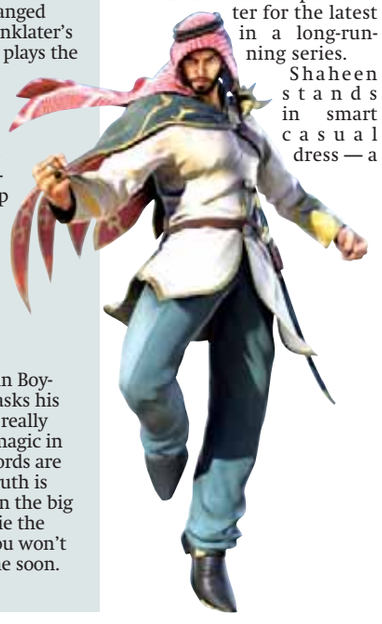
As viewers keep returning to videos of Nora pawing the ivories and Maru running and sliding into cardboard boxes, they are strengthening their bond with the feline species.

"There's something quite fascinating and fun about cat videos," says Dr. Emily Weiss, senior director of research and development for the ASPCA. "What's more compelling than some random compilation of cats doing stuff like knocking things over?"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gaming. Saudi character coming to Tekken 7

Tekken director Katsuhiro Harada unveiled a new character for March 2015 fighting game Tekken 7, a new addition to the 21-plus roster for the latest in a long-running series.



Shaheen stands in smart casual dress — a checked headscarf with thick black circular cord resting atop of it, a stylized overgarment, embroidered sleeves and cloak, and chunky, pale blue trousers paired with pointed black shoes.

His personal background is unknown, but jeweled rings, a large ornamental brooch, and golden motifs adorning cloak and top can be taken to imply wealth and power.

Harada posted the image to Twitter, Facebook and Japanese social networking site Twipple.

The character was first shown as a concept art mock-up in August 2014, with Harada developing a dialogue with fans over the creation of several new characters.

The inclusion of a Saudi character builds on the introduction of Modern Oasis in 2012 console release Tekken Tag Tournament 2, a Saudi Arabian backdrop that took its place alongside other stages from around the world. AFP

Start 2015 off by exploring great literary works, epic sci-fi films and an island-hopping adventure

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
scene@metronews.ca

Ebooks

The Secret Life of Books

By. The Open University

iPad

This is a chance to explore the original handwritten manuscripts and first editions of six literary classics including the novels of Jane Eyre, Charles Dickens, Mary Shelley, and William Shakespeare. Based on the BBC TV series, this interactive book includes virtual rooms, links to online resources, and most compelling, video tours of the rarest of research archives.

App

BFI Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder

iPad
Free

Explore 60 of the greatest science-fiction films of all time in this art book analysis that includes clips, trivia, images, and timeline connections which reveal influences between different films.

Video game

Name. Seabeard

For. iPhone/iPad

Rated. 4+

Comparisons between Seabeard and Animal Crossing are unavoidable, but in this case prove positive as the island-hopping adventure borrows Nintendo's childlike sense of wonder to create something very distinct. With gorgeous, charming visuals, you sail between islands via sea creature mini-games to complete daily tasks.

Revisit a decade of friendship in just one episode per season

Streaming. Friends is now on Netflix, and here are our choices for the best episode to watch from each of the show's 10 seasons

LISA WEIDENFELD
Metro in Boston

Friends is now at your fingertips, as Netflix released the entire series on Dec. 31. But where to start? Here are our picks for the top episodes, season by season.

Season 1: The first season is mostly appealing because of how adorably young everyone looks. We say, start things off with a bang, and go ahead and try the pilot.

Season 2: This is where the show really starts to hit its stride. But if you have to pick just one classic, we say go with The One with the Prom Video, where Ross and Rachel first get together, thus embarking on one of television's most famous (if often mocked) relationships.

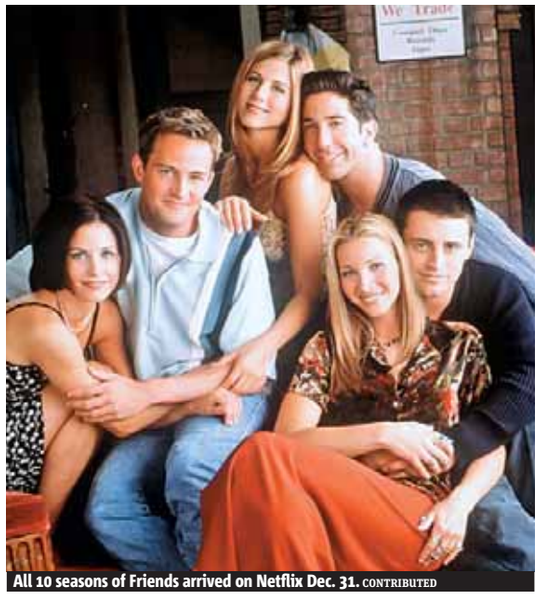
Season 3: Hope you enjoyed Ross and Rachel together! By the end of this season, they've already broken up, after the infamous "we were on a break" fight. Instead of diving into heartbreak, pick an episode from earlier in the season. Watch The One Where No One's Ready, which is a strong contender for best episode of the series.

Season 4: Although it's tempting to pick one of the later episodes, once Ross names the wrong woman at his wedding, we say watch The One with the Embryos, where Monica, Rachel, Chandler and Joey have a competition to see who knows each other better.

Season 5: Monica and Chandler start hooking up at the end of Season 4, but they maintain a secret relationship for a significant portion of Season 5. Which is why we particularly enjoy the episode when everyone catches them at it, called The One Where Everyone Finds Out.

Season 6: This season builds to Chandler and Monica's engagement, but for true romance points, we prefer the double-header, The One That Could Have Been, about what would happen if various early plot points hadn't occurred.

Season 7: Remember Ben? Sometimes, it seemed like the show didn't, but every now and then the writers brought back Ross' son. In The One with the Holiday Armadillo, Ross decides to teach Ben about Hanukkah, but deciding to do so in costume last minute leaves him stuck dressing up as armadillo instead of Santa.


All 10 seasons of Friends arrived on Netflix Dec. 31. CONTRIBUTED

Season 8: Our pick for this season is a bit of a downer but, at the time, it was just plain funny. We're speaking, of course, of The One with the Rumor, which maybe didn't have the best gender politics, but milked quite a bit out of having Jennifer Aniston's then-husband, Brad Pitt, guest star.

Season 9: We're going to go with The One with Rachel's Other Sister, wherein Christina Applegate joins the gang's Thanksgiving festivities as Amy, Rachel's self-centred, bratty sister.

Season 10: You could watch the finale to wrap up your Friends binge-watch, but we instead recommend The One with Princess Consuela Banana Hammock, which is the last episode to really traffic in the goofy hijinks the show was known for. After that, it focuses on wrapping up everyone's story lines.

Interview. Tackling tech in television and film

Julianna Margulies' Alicia Florrick faces a lot of tech troubles in The Good Wife. THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the twisty drama The Good Wife, oftentimes the most electrifying moments onscreen happen on another screen.

The past six seasons of the legal saga have indeed been fraught with more digital drama than a Sony email chain, with Julianna Margulies' titular lawyer near-constantly surfing a web of techno-emergencies.

Since the earliest episodes, the show's creators have endeavoured to nail the tech-dependent lives of lawyers, politicians and, well, pretty much everyone else. "It's hard to treat seriously shows that have a kind of an old view, like a 10-year-old view of social media," co-creator Robert King says. "We've always stuck with the idea of living in reality. The more real you make it, the better. And often these days, the bad news comes in the version of a text." And yet, correctly representing the degree to which many of us live lives within our phones is a vexing challenge. Representing it onscreen in a visually interesting way isn't easy, and getting even a couple of details wrong is an invitation to ridicule. But increasingly it seems that taking on that challenge is not a choice — with the alternative being to look woefully out-of-touch, a speed-dated artifact.

On House of Cards, Kevin Spacey's smug political puppeteer conducts much of his Machiavellian manoeuvring via BlackBerry, and typically those messages are reproduced in large font across the screen. It's not a visual method favoured by King. "We've gone the opposite way of shows like House of Cards. That stuff is seeming very cliché to me, where there's a little bubble that pops up on the screen," explained King.

"It's much better to be in the point of view of the character finding the text. (We) see it actually through your character's eyes as they look down at their phone. We haven't done anything that I consider silly with little bubbles popping up on the screen."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Get a handle on your net worth

Fresh start. If you want to do things differently this year, it's time to tally up what you own — and what you owe

GAIL VAZ-OXLADE
Gail blogs daily at gailvazoxlade.com

Last year came and went faster than Usain Bolt. Whew! While a lot of people wrote and tweeted me to say they're finally taking control of their money, I also expect some lived like there would be no tomorrow and are now looking at a hot, stinky pile of, um, mess that they now have to clean up.

If you just couldn't figure out how to make your money work in 2014, consider this your opportunity for a new start. It's time to take another kick at the can.

I'm a great one for making mistakes. I used to think I had to be perfect. Then I had kids and realized I'd never be perfect again, so I decided I'd better get used to just being pretty great.

I'm not afraid of making mistakes — or getting caught — anymore. Now I just say, "I'm sorry," and move on to the next step, having learned from my mistakes.

Of course, learning from mistakes means first acknowledging what a big screw-up you've been. Have you found yourself running out of money between pays? Wondering why the debt just will not go away no matter how hard you try? Always seem to be in overdraft? Want things to be different this year?

Take a snapshot of where you are right now so you have a benchmark for measuring how you're doing throughout the year. Say hello to your net worth, which is a look at what you own minus what you owe to see how much you realio, trulio, have got.

If you made financial mistakes last year, take the opportunity now to begin anew. ISTOCK

Fanatics do a net worth statement as often as every month. But you should have a life, so doing a net worth update every six months or so should suffice.

There are several net worth calculators on the web. If you want to use the one at gailvazoxlade.com, look under Resources for the Net Worth Statement.

Don't try to skew the results in your favour. The point of the net worth statement is to give you a realistic picture of where you are now so you can measure your progress.

People routinely include their personal effects as an asset. Don't. These aren't very saleable and you're just deluding yourself if you assign your things more value than you could ever realize from selling them. Ditto for collectibles unless you're in the biz. If you do believe you have something of value, have it appraised. Don't just guess.

One asset we like to push up the value on is our home. The house two blocks over just sold for $1.7 million? Jeez, that puts you in a pretty good place.

But just remember, Ms. Happy-I-Own, unless you're planning to sell that home and move somewhere cheaper, those assets are going to be tied up for a long time. Don't get over-enthusiastic about real estate values, particularly in an up market. Feeling smug to the point of not building other assets, say for retirement, isn't the point of the net worth statement.

While the current value of your pension plan is an asset, it can be challenging putting a present-day value on that future income. So for your net worth statement, include the amount you could withdraw if you changed jobs.

On the liabilities side of the equation, don't forget to include your overdraft (if you're in it), buy-now-pay-later purchases on which you still owe money (even if it isn't due yet), back taxes, money you've taken from your RRSP to buy a home or go to school, and (heaven forbid) pay-advance loans.

Having taken this snapshot, you're going to use it as your guide for moving forward. As long as you're paying down your debt and adding to your savings, your net worth will keep going in the right direction.

Tracking your net worth will also help you see how you're progressing toward your goals.

Trying to build up a down payment for a home? Want to take full advantage of the Canada Education Savings Grants for your kids? Setting a goal for what you want to accomplish will make it much more likely to happen. Using your net worth statement to track your progress keeps the goal front and centre in your decision-making.

A net worth statement is also invaluable when it come to things like deciding how much insurance will be enough or estimating your retirement income as you close in on D-day. As for checking your progress, as long as your current liabilities are covered by your current assets, you've got a good base from which to build.

Owe more than you own? Don't become disheartened. The point is to make a plan for changing what you're doing so your next net worth update shows progress. Do nothing different and you can expect to be no further ahead the next time the calendar clicks over.

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Don't forget the interest

- If you really want to be realistic about what you owe, you will also include the interest costs associated with your liabilities.
- If, for example, you have a car loan for $24,000 over 72 months at five per cent interest, you should add that $3,800 in interest to your liabilities. There are loan calculators on the Internet to help you do this.

Nutrition

Obesity doesn't always mean poor health: Study

U.S. scientists encouraged 20 obese people to eat extra fast food for several months, and found that about a quarter stayed in good health despite the additional pounds they gained. Subjects were encouraged to eat 1,000 extra calories per day. **AFP**

Got a thick skin? You could make a living as a paintball tester. ARIEL BRAVY

Hard living. Thousands apply for paintball-testing position

Some 10,000 people from around the world have applied to be shot at as a paintball bullet tester, according to the British company posting the job advertisement.

UKPaintball, which has more than 60 paintballing venues in Britain, said it was stunned by the response to its search for a "human bullet impact tester."

Candidates from not just Britain, but as far away as Canada, the U.S. and India have applied for the $72,000 a year job testing the impact of paintballs. "This incredible response is the last thing we expected when we posted the advert," said UKPaintball owner Justin Toohig. "We couldn't have predicted that so many people in the U.K. and beyond would want to get shot for a living." **AFP**

Shaking up Middle Eastern street food

Chicken Shawarma.
This fast food can be made a bit healthier in your kitchen

ROSE REISMAN
For more, visit rosereisman.com or follow her on twitter @rosereisman

Traditional shawarma, a Middle Eastern delicacy, consists of a meat such as lamb, chicken, beef or veal placed on a spit and grilled for as long as a day. The meat is shaved off as needed for sandwiches or wraps, dipped back in the fat drippings and often served with tahini or hummus.

It's delicious, but often high in calories and fat due to the skin and fat drippings being consumed.

Try my version served in a pita and made with lean chicken breast.

This recipe makes eight half pitas. ROSE REISMAN

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

Ingredients

Sauce
- 3/4 cup store-bought or homemade hummus
- 1 1/2 tbsp lemon juice
- 2 tbsp low-fat sour cream
- 1 tsp finely chopped garlic
- Pinch of salt and pepper

Chicken
- 12 oz skinless boneless chicken breasts (about 3 breasts)
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 cups sliced onion

Pitas
- 4 large pitas
- 1/2 cup chopped tomatoes
- 1/2 cup chopped cucumber
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro

Directions

1. Combine the hummus, lemon juice, sour cream, garlic, salt and pepper in a small bowl. Set aside.

2. Place the chicken between 2 pieces of waxed paper, pound it flat and cut into thin strips. Coat the chicken strips with the flour. Lightly coat a nonstick skillet with cooking spray and set over medium-high heat. Add the oil and onion and sauté for 5 minutes or just until browned. Add the chicken and sauté for 10 minutes, stirring constantly, until the chicken is no longer pink. Respray the pan if necessary.

3. Slice each pita in half. Divide the chicken and onion mixture among the half-pitas. Sprinkle with tomatoes, cucumber and cilantro and spoon the hummus sauce over the pitas.

Nutritional information

Per serving (1/2 pita): 212 calories, 25 g carbohydrates, 3.8 g fibre, 14 g protein, 6.7 g total fat, 1.3 saturated fat, 25 mg cholesterol, 240 mg sodium

Hearty poutine with your health in mind

Ingredients

Potatoes
- 3 baking potatoes, scrubbed
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 2 tbsp grated Parmesan cheese (½ oz)
- 1/4 tsp chili powder

Chili
- 6 oz diced boneless skinless chicken breasts diced (about 1 1/2 single breasts)
- 2 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 3/4 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup corn
- 1 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 3/4 cup canned black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 1/4 cup tomato sauce
- 1/3 cup low-sodium chicken stock
- 1 1/2 tsp chili powder
- 1 tsp seeded and finely chopped jalapeño pepper
- Pinch of salt and pepper
- 1/2 cup grated mozzarella cheese

1. Preheat oven to 425 F. Lightly coat a rimmed baking sheet with cooking spray.

2. Cut each potato lengthwise into 8 wedges. Place on prepared baking sheet. Combine oil, garlic powder, Parmesan cheese and chili powder. Brush the potato wedges on both sides with the mixture. Bake in the middle of the oven for 20-25 minutes or just until tender and browned.

3. While potatoes are baking prepare chili. Place chicken and flour in bowl and toss to coat. Lightly coat nonstick saucepan with cooking spray, add 1 tsp vegetable oil and set over medium heat. Sauté chicken 5 minutes or until it is lightly browned and cooked through.

4. Respray same saucepan, add remaining vegetable oil and set over medium heat. Add onion, corn and garlic and cook until corn is lightly browned, approx. 5 minutes.

5. Stir in beans, tomato sauce, stock, chili powder, jalapeño pepper and salt and pepper. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat and cover. Simmer 10 minutes uncovered. Add diced chicken.

6. Divide over potato wedges; add cheese. ROSE REISMAN

This Baked Potato Poutine recipe skips the gravy and serves six. ROSE REISMAN

Make your Facebook profile ready for the clicks of any creeping colleague

Career. Sweep up your social media presence by taking these tips into consideration

LAUREN MARINIGH
TalentEgg.ca

Limit what content future employers may find by cleaning up your Facebook profile to feature only those people you associate with regularly. ISTOCK

You have heard it time and time again: be aware of what you're posting on Facebook, because once it's out there, there is no turning back.

Employers are becoming more and more socially active, so doing a social media screening before even contacting you for an interview is now standard practice.

How do you make sure that your Facebook profile is job-hunt ready? Here are some tips.

Delete

Start with the obvious: delete everything off your Facebook profile you wouldn't want an employer to see.

Photos are the best place to start. While they may remain in Google search results for a while, getting unprofessional photos off your profile stops them from going any further.

Go through all your albums, notes and pages that you have liked as well. Make sure to remove anything you wouldn't want people outside your friend circle to stumble upon.

Also go through your friends and see who has tagged you in photos that you no longer want to be posted, request they take them down, and un-tag yourself.

Un-friend

Go through the list of connections you've collected over the years on Facebook. Un-friend anyone that may make you look bad.

Just because your profile may be closed and private, that doesn't mean theirs is.

A good rule of thumb to start cleaning your friend list out: think about the last time you talked to them. If you can't remember when, where or why, it's probably time to go.

Update your privacy settings

Leaving privacy settings on "default" will likely open your Facebook profile to the outside world.

Go through each setting within your privacy settings and make sure they are set to the appropriate setting.

Make sure that non-friends only have access to information you want to share.

Double-check your privacy settings each time you post, as some posts can default to appearing to all users, not just your network.

With Facebook's constant updates, it's hard to keep track of how these settings may change.

Keeping your Facebook profile clear of anything that may halt a hiring manager is key to career success.

Don't ignore it and hope no one checks — you may be forgetting something that you posted years ago.

Always give your Facebook profile a regular scan through, and update.

Make it a regular part of curating your online presence.

Think first, post later

Although it's impossible to go back and tell yourself not to post something, you can exercise some caution moving forward.

- Think about your goals as a job-seeker or professional before you post anything. This includes photos, wall posts on friends' walls, statuses, etc.
- If you wouldn't want an employer to read it, don't post it.
- Set up your timeline and tagging settings so that you will have to approve anything you are posted in before it goes up on your profile.

We love our web

Email, Internet remain top workplace tools: study

Americans see email and the Internet as the most important tools for productivity at work, and still prefer landlines over cellphones for the office, a study showed Tuesday.

The Pew Research Center found 61 per cent of those surveyed cited email as "very important" for their jobs and 54 per cent said the same for the Internet.

The figures were even higher for office-based workers.

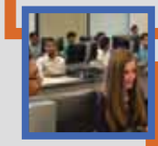
More than one in three surveyed said the landline phone was an important tool for work, compared with 24 per cent for a mobile or smartphone.

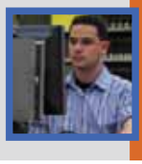
And despite the rise of social networks like Facebook and Twitter, just four per cent in the survey said these platforms were important for the workplace.

"Email is to the digital age what stone-sharpening tools were in the prehistoric age," said Lee Rainie, director of Internet, science, and technology research at the Pew Center.

"Email has proven its worth on the job as the foundational 'social media' day by day even as rival technologies arise.

"It was the killer app 45 years ago for the early Arpanet and it continues to rule workplaces despite threats like spam and phishing and competitors like social networking and texting." AFP





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Kramer, George, Elaine and Jer help med students ID mental illnesses

Education. At medical school, psychiatry professor making Seinfeld about much more than nothing

Medical students at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School are learning about psychiatric disorders through Dr. Anthony Tobia's 'Psyfeld' teaching tool, NJ.com reports.

Tobia has created a database of teaching points using all the show's episodes. Third- and fourth-year medical students are assigned two episodes a week and then gather to discuss the psychopathology demonstrated on each.

"You have a very diverse group of personality traits that are maladaptive on the individual level," Tobia said.

"When you get these friends together, the dynamic is such that it literally creates a plot: Jerry's obsessive compulsive traits combined with Kramer's schizoid traits, with Elaine's inability to forge meaningful relationships and with George being egocentric."

His diagnosis of Newman? "Very sick."

His students sat around a conference table recently, analyzing an episode from the night before.

Third-year student Marlene Wang said that the exercise leads to having more practical and relatable examples than a textbook.

"In this way, it just gives you a more solid picture of the pathology rather than just giving you words," Wang said.

Tobia also teaches a course in which students tweet thoughts about characters' potential psychiatric disorders while watching films like Fargo.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

We've got lots to learn from this neurotic band of besties.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP/COLUMBIA

Picking apart Puddy

- Dr. Anthony Tobia has also written an academic paper that analyzes five of Elaine's boyfriends from the show to explain delusional disorder.

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Harnessing the hiring potential that an Internet presence can provide

Career. Learn to leverage social media and take your career to the next level

MARIANNE HAYES
Metro in New York City

Are you using social media to elevate your chances of employment? ISTOCK

These days, it's hard to find someone who isn't on social media. It comes as no surprise that one 2014 Pew study found that 74 per cent of online adults use social networking sites. But are you leveraging social media to take your career to the next level?

According to a recent Jobvite survey of nearly 2,000 recruiters, more than half said they'd reconsidered a candidate based on their social profile. What's more, 94 per cent use LinkedIn to recruit new employees. This begs the question: How can you utilize social media to land the job of your dreams?

Here to weigh in is Caity Kauffman, social media and digital marketing manager for the Tampa Bay Lightning. At 25, Kauffman is living proof that understanding social media pays off. In fact, she used connections made on Twitter to secure her first job out of college. Since then, she's cultivated a loyal social media following and is considered an up-and-coming millennial voice in Tampa Bay.

Here are a handful of Kauffman's most valuable tips for upping your career through social media.

Tweet your resumé

It may sound a little out there, but tweeting your resumé can be a great way to get exposure. For Kauffman, doing this actually led to a job producing a Sirius XM radio show. (Thanks to a retweet.)

"I actually gave the same advice to a girlfriend in Philadelphia," says Kauffman. "She tweeted out her resumé and an ad agency found her and hired her as a junior copywriter."

Creating an online portfolio of your work is another little thing that can have a big impact. It's also easy to promote on social media and paints a more complete picture of your skill set, especially since a resumé is typically only one page long.

Reach out to new contacts (without being creepy)

Got your eye on a potential new contact you're itching to connect with? The last thing you want to do is come on too strong, which can spoil the relationship before it even begins. Instead, Kauffman advises starting off slowly. Begin by following the person on social media, gradually commenting and retweeting wherever you can. This opens the door for some interaction.

"Engage with them naturally as if they have nothing to offer you," says Kauffman. "Once they start tweeting back and you have a couple of back-and-forths, I would send them a DM or email if possible."

The worst thing you can do at this point is ask them how they can help you. Instead, just ask them to grab coffee so that you can learn from their experience. In other words: Don't treat them like a stepladder. If you're eager and motivated, Kauffman says, most people will want to help you. So focus on building relationships slowly before you start asking for favours.

Be searchable

According to Kauffman, a lot of students new to the job force hide from Google. She actually suggests doing the exact opposite.

- "If I'm trying to look up a possible intern and I can't find them, that makes it look like they either haven't done anything or they're hiding something," she says.
- Instead, be open to being searchable. Creating a basic website can be an excellent way of getting your name to rank in Google. It also pulls double duty by showcasing your talents and skills. In short, when potential employers Google you, you want good things to pop up.

Best course of study

Resolve to relax this semester

The after-holiday, back-to-school rush involves stress, sleepless nights and too much coffee. The key to studying effectively during this time, however, involves taking some breaks from quadratic equations, writing a superb thesis and memorizing every detail about the Crusades. Here are three ways to relax in between your cram sessions:

Break out the markers
You laugh, but nothing is more relaxing than colouring. Why do you think you loved it so much when you were in elementary school? So head to the bookstore and snag some markers, coloured pencils or a traditional yellow box of Crayola crayons.

Turn to the TV
Go ahead, give in to your desire to watch an episode of your latest television series addiction. Just remember not to get sucked into the vicious Netflix cycle (watch out for the dreaded auto-start on Netflix TV shows).

Remember to eat
Don't fool yourself into thinking that there simply isn't enough time to fuel up with some food (the stale Triscuits and Pepsi in your room don't count). Remember, your brain needs nourishment.

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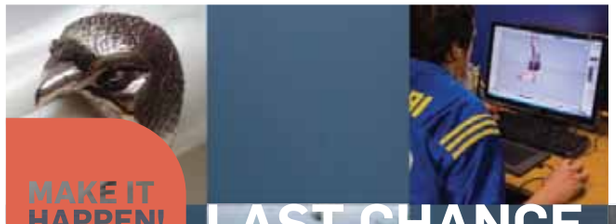

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The PP difference maker

NHL. Burrows is going hard to the net and the Canucks are benefiting

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

Alex Burrows redirects a shot puck against Flames goalie Jonas Hiller at Rogers Arena on Dec 20. Burrows' knack for going to the net has been a boon for the Canucks' power play of late. RICH LAM/GETTY IMAGES

Alex Burrows didn't have his contributions show up on the scoresheet in Saturday's win over the Detroit Red Wings.

The veteran Vancouver Canucks forward didn't register a point.

But he had an important part on both power-play goals. Burrows planted himself in front of the net, a painful place to set up shop, created havoc with opposing defencemen and helped to hinder Jimmy Howard from seeing the puck on an Alex Edler blast.

It's a greasy job and doesn't always get recognized in the box score.

When it came to the power play, a constant theme with players who spoke postgame after the victory over Detroit was the impact Burrows has recently had on the top unit, which features Edler, Daniel and Henrik Sedin and Radim Vrbata.

All four of those players possess all the skills you want in those situations.

The Sedin twins are deft distributors of the puck. Vrbata and Edler can shoot and love to do so. But going to the net isn't exactly that quartet's forte. That's where Burrows comes in.

"I think the last two, three weeks it's felt really good," said Henrik Sedin of the power play, which has been revived of late with seven goals in the last 20 opportunities.

"I think with (Burrows) in front ... it feels like we have a scoring chance every time we could get the puck there."

The 33-year-old Burrows was only promoted to the top power play unit in the middle of December. He has since provided a different element to the group, which endured an 0-for-18 stretch last month, too.

That move has helped invigorate the top group for now.

"I think Burrows makes a big difference," said head coach Willie Desjardins.

"I think it's a combination of a few things. We've got some pretty talented players. We've been getting chances before, they just weren't going in. Now it seems like they're going in."

Ryan Miller

Veteran goalie finding his groove

Had it not been for the play of goalie Ryan Miller, the Canucks wouldn't have won on Saturday. The $6-million-per-year goalie was sensational.

Miller has started each of the past six games. Only once in that span has he given up more than two goals in a start.

Those five days off at Christmas helped refresh the 34-year-old, who admitted before the break that fatigue was an issue.

"Just getting used to the West and how the practices and workouts and travel shake out," Miller said Saturday.

"I think I have a better understanding of what I want to do and how I want to approach it."

Now, the debate about when to give Miller another rest has started. The Canucks have three more games — against the New York Islanders, Florida Panthers and Flames — left on this remaining homestand.

Romo rallies Cowboys for comeback win

Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo and head coach Jason Garrett embrace after beating the Lions in an NFC wild-card playoff game in Arlington, Texas, on Sunday. TOM PENNINGTON/GETTY IMAGES

In their first playoff game in five years, the Dallas Cowboys needed a rally and some clutch plays.

They got them in beating the Detroit Lions 24-20 Sunday in an NFC wild-card game — along with a key reversal on a pass interference penalty.

Tony Romo threw two touchdown passes to Terrance Williams, the second for eight yards and the winning points with 2:32 to go. That brought the Cowboys (13-4) back from a 14-point deficit.

"You just have to stay in the moment and understand the game," Romo said. "It doesn't end after the first quarter, second quarter. There's a long way to go and it wasn't going well, but usually things dissipate a little bit ... You just have to keep calm. I've played enough games to understand that. Maybe I didn't do that as well when I was younger."

Divisional playoff round

- Baltimore at New England, Saturday, 4:35 p.m.
- Carolina at Seattle, Saturday, 8:15 p.m.
- Dallas at Green Bay, Sunday, 1:05 p.m.
- Indianapolis at Denver, Sunday, 4:40 p.m.

Earlier in the day, Andrew Luck threw for 376 yards and a touchdown as the Indianapolis Colts beat the Cincinnati Bengals 26-10.

The Bengals became the first team in NFL history to lose four consecutive opening-round playoff games. They also are 0-6 in the post-season under coach Marvin Lewis, 0-4 with Andy Dalton at quarterback. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 SPORTS

Lightning drop Senators

The Lightning's Brett Connolly fights through checks from Senators Mark Stone, left, and Kyle Turris during Tampa Bay's 4-2 win on Sunday night at Canadian Tire Place in Ottawa. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

Raps end West Coast trip with loss

Eric Bledsoe scored 20 points, fellow guards Goran Dragic and Isaiah Thomas added 18 apiece and the Phoenix Suns handed the Toronto Raptors their second straight blowout loss, 125-109, on Sunday night.

Seven Suns hit double figures in the team's highest-scoring non-overtime game this season.

The Raptors, who trailed by as many as 19 points in the first half and 27 in the second, finished a season-long six-game road trip with their two most one-sided losses of the season, losing at Golden State 126-105 on Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stuart Scott

ESPN personality dies of cancer

Stuart Scott, the SportsCenter anchor and ESPN personality known for his enthusiasm and ubiquity, died Sunday. He was 49.

Scott had fought cancer since a diagnosis in late 2007, the network said, but remained dedicated to his craft even as he underwent chemotherapy, radiation and surgery.

ESPN president John Skipper said in a statement that Scott's "energetic and unwavering devotion to his family and to his work while fighting the battle of his life left us in awe, and he leaves a void that can never be replaced." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No pity from Petan as Canada tops Slovakia

World juniors. Delta, B.C., forward's three-goal display helps send hosts into gold-medal clash with rival Russia

Canada didn't roll over Slovakia, and that might be the best thing to happen to this team at the world junior championship.

Facing adversity and nervous tension for the first time all tournament, Canada gutted through a tough game and eventually pulled away for a 5-1 on Sunday night in Toronto. Russia awaits in the gold-medal game.

During the third period, chants of "We want Russia" and "We want gold" echoed through Air Canada Centre. The rivalry with Russia gets another chapter Monday night.

"It's the best thing for all of the hockey community, for business," Russian coach Valeri Bragin said. "Russia-Canada: hockey classic."

Stopped at many turns by Slovak goaltender Denis Godla, Canada may be better-prepared for Russia than it would have been had it won easily. Canada hasn't trailed in any of its games and took an easy road through Denmark to reach the semifinals.

Nic Petan scores his second-period goal on Slovakia goalie Denis Godla during Canada's 5-1 win on Sunday night in Toronto. Petan scored in each period, completing the hat trick. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Semifinals

Canada	Slovakia
5	1

- **Patriotic games.** The IIHF said Hockey Canada is responsible for world junior ticket prices.
- Tickets for group stage games in Montreal started at $71 and ranged to $336 for the New Year's Eve game between Canada and the United States, which drew 18,295 fans to the 21,273-capacity arena.
- IIHF president Rene Fasel said if those prices were in place for a tournament in Europe, there would be nobody in the arena.

Led by Godla and his 39 saves, Slovakia proved to be a tougher opponent. But Nic Petan had a hat trick, Shea Theodore and Anthony Duclair each added a goal, Connor McDavid recorded three assists and Zach Fucale made 14 saves to ensure the end of Canada's world junior medal drought that dated back to 2012. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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CANADA

To see how we celebrated a Hockey Mom in our community, scan this Tide bottle image with your Metro AR app.

AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you get in a fight with someone who is bigger or better connected than you, you will undoubtedly lose, so back off.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You don't have to apologize for something you said that rubbed a friend or relative the wrong way. They've said plenty of things which you chose not to make an issue of.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
The more you worry about a money problem the more power you give it, so put it out of your mind and focus on something more positive.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
It's unlikely you will be feeling your best today but that's OK because friends and family will go out of their way to cheer you up.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
If you think you have to come first or be best at everything you may end up exhausted. The important thing is not the winning but the taking part.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you stand against the winds of change you will almost certainly be blown away. So why not work with them instead? Don't resist when fate nudges you, or throws you, in a new direction.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There are so many changes taking place now that you may feel a bit insecure. That is not an excuse to start feeling sorry for yourself. Step up and show your leadership qualities.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Keep things simple, especially if you are on the move. Travel and social plans could easily go wrong, so give yourself plenty of time.

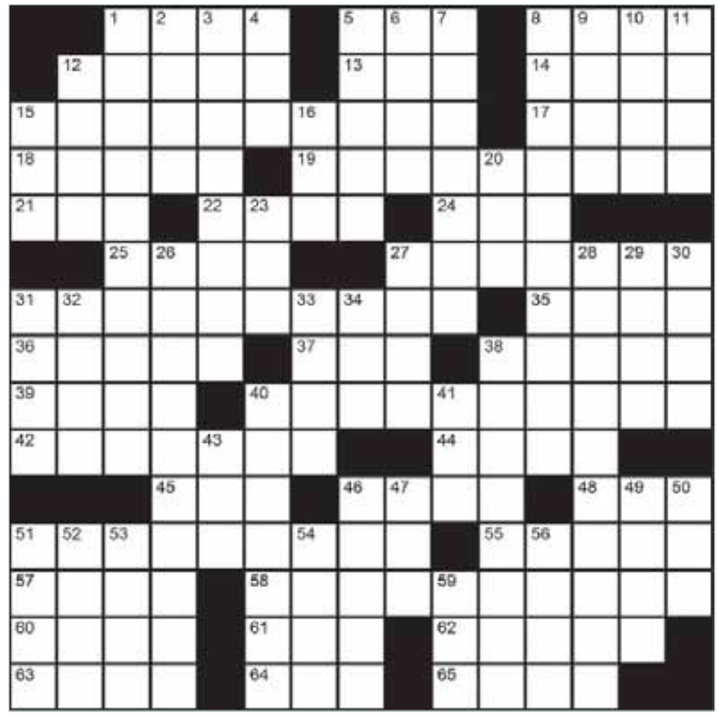
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will have to loosen your hold on something you cherish. It may be painful to begin with but it won't be long before you feel a real sense of freedom.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Chances are you won't be at your best as the week begins. The good news is you will go to the other extreme midweek and have the time of your life.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Do something exciting over the next 24 hours, something that makes you smile even if it may take a little more effort than usual.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Certain things in your world are changing and there is nothing you can do to stop it. Be positive and believe that what happens is for the best, for you and for everyone.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



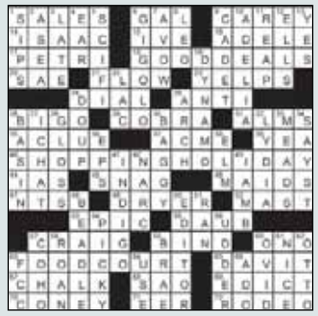
Across

1. Intend to
5. Play-__
8. Go-__ (Fun racer)
12. Mr. Sagan's
13. Journey's "__ Way You Want It"
14. Sailor's sheltered side
15. William Shakespeare: 3 wds.
17. Sisters
18. Ready to swing in baseball: 2 wds.
19. Crosswords: 2 wds.
21. Salon product
22. Abner, et al.
24. My friend (English) = __ ami (French)
25. 'Diet' suffix
27. Steven of CBC's "Steven and Chris"
31. Country in Central Asia where Tashkent is the capital
35. Quasi
36. Awaken
37. Cereal grass
38. Yarn bundle
39. Research facil.
40. Toronto team that won the Stanley Cup in 1914
42. Remove the cuffs: 2 wds.
44. Cardinal point
45. Getaway
46. Ginger cookie
48. Spinning stat.
51. Grow operation plant
55. Not _ __ out of place
57. Excited
58. Strappy shoes
60. ZZ Top song of 1975
61. Antiquity
62. Outlandish occurrence
63. Fire up
64. John of "Touched by an Angel"
65. Salts, in a Montreal restaurant

Down

1. Parliament Hill: Sculpture of Queen Victoria in The Senate Chamber: 2 wds.
2. Earth goddess in Das Rheingold
3. "...and she's _ __ __ you." - Honeymoon Suite, "New Girl Now"
4. Bounced cheque acronym
5. Swiss Alps city
6. Due ___ before... (Submission info)
7. Chris of CBC's "Steven and Chris"
8. Alberta: __ Country (Nicknamed K-Country, scenic area is just west of Calgary)
9. Reunion attendee
10. Actor Mr. Auberjonois
11. D'Urbervilles heroine
12. Ms. Blanchett
15. Purse
16. Pointy tool
20. Chewed gum shape
23. Pierre's 'here'
26. Practice run in aviation: 2 wds.
27. Fill
28. Hoofed animal prints: 2 wds.
29. Leave out
30. Breaks a commandment
31. Mr. Geller's
32. 'In the __': 2003 Britney Spears album
33. Exclusive
34. Sigma's alphabetic follower
38. Like the stuff at #5-Across [var. sp.]
40. Perplexed
41. GBS part (Canadian band)
43. Pre-1947 British rule in India
46. Sneering
47. Grandma
49. Medieval weapon
50. Married title
51. Multiplication, e.g.
52. Chill
53. Santa __, California
54. "__ McBeal"
56. Cart along
59. President after Richard Nixon ...his initials-sharers

Boxing Day's Crossword

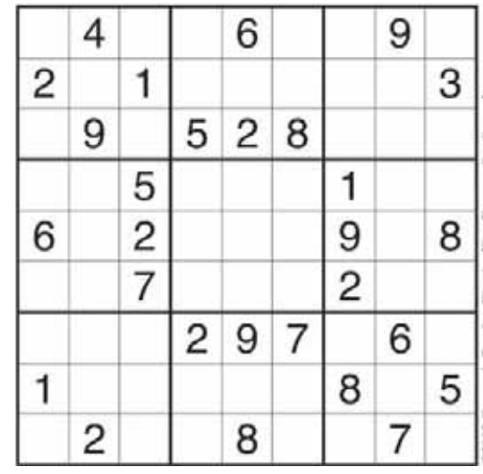


Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



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Boxing Day's Sudoku

5	1	9	6	4	2	3	7	8
4	2	7	8	1	3	6	5	9
3	8	6	5	7	9	4	1	2
1	9	5	3	6	4	8	2	7
7	4	8	1	2	5	9	6	3
2	6	3	9	8	7	5	4	1
6	5	1	7	9	8	2	3	4
9	7	4	2	3	6	1	8	5
8	3	2	4	5	1	7	9	6

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